

DRAWINGS

With regard to the drawings, the Examiner objects to the drawings, alleging that the “fixed reference mark” and “plurality of mounting members with a respective data storage device” must be shown in the drawings and that a proposed Drawing Correction Approval Request must be provided in response to the Examiner’s objections. With regard to these objections, they are respectfully traversed for at least the following reasons.

Initially, Applicants respectfully submit that a plurality of mounting members with a respective data storage device is already included in the drawings. For example, feeding member 3 includes a storage device 16; camera 17 includes a camera storage device 18; and mounting head member 5 includes head data storage device 15. As disclosed in the Abstract and as provided at least on page 3, second paragraph of the specification, the mounting members may include, for example, mounting head members such as mounting head member 5; feeding members such as feeding member 3; and sensor members such as camera 17. As each of the “mounting members” comprises a data storage device which is clearly illustrated in Figs. 1-3 of the present application, no further amendments to the drawings need be made. Accordingly, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

With regard to the Examiner’s objection to the term “fixed reference mark”, Applicants respectfully submit that while a fixed reference mark is inferentially referred to in the claim, it is not recited as a direct claim element and thus need not be shown in the drawings. However, in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application, Applicants have illustrated a fixed reference mark 25 in Fig. 2, wherein the reference mark is fixed by being attached to a bar 11 which does not move during the mounting process. Accordingly, a corrected version of Fig. 2 has

been submitted in a Drawing Correction Approval Request, and approval of this Drawing Correction Approval Request in connection with the present application is respectfully requested, along with a withdrawal of the Examiner's drawing objection.

PRIOR ART REJECTIONS

The Examiner has rejected each of the claims of the present application over various new reference combinations, wherein at least one of the references utilized in the combination is a reference to Soellner, U.S. Patent No. 6,079,098. The reference to Soellner is a United States patent which is used under 35 U.S.C. § 103/102(e) based on its U.S. filing date; and is a United States patent assigned to Siemens Aktiengesellschaft, the current assignee of the current application.

WITHDRAWAL OF REJECTION REQUESTED

The present application was filed on or after November 29, 1999 (it was filed on April 26, 2000) and is assigned to Siemens Aktiengesellschaft. Effective November 29, 1999, subject matter which was prior art under former 35 U.S.C. § 103 via 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) should now be disqualified as prior art against the claimed invention since the subject matter of the prior art and the claimed invention were, at the time the invention was made, owned by the same person or subject to an obligation of assignment to the same person, as set forth in MPEP § 706.02(i)(1). Both the Soellner patent 6,079,098 and the present application were, at the time the invention was made, owned by, or subject to an obligation of assignment to, the same person or entity, namely Siemens Aktiengesellschaft. As such, the rejection is inapplicable and withdrawal of the rejection of each of the claims of the present application is respectfully requested.

ENTRY OF AMENDMENT

Entry of the present amendment is respectfully requested in that it does not involve any changes to the claims and therefore does not raise any new issues requiring further consideration and/or search; and the amendment merely overcomes minor objections raised by the Examiner and clearly places the application in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of all outstanding objections and rejections and allowance of each of claims 10-32 in connection with the present application is earnestly solicited.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Donald J. Daley at the telephone number of the undersigned below.

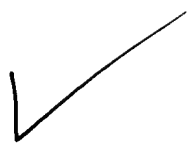
If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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MARKED-UP VERSION OF SPECIFICATION

However, the present invention is not limited by utilizing the first suction pipette 4 as a reference to determine the positioning of the other suction pipettes. Other fixed reference marks can also be selected whose precise position relative to the automatic component mounting unit 7 is known or can be simply measured. Therefore, the fixed reference mark data 25 of the automatic component mounting unit 7 can be utilized to calibrate the positioning of the suction pipettes 4 of the component head mounting member as well as the positioning of other mounting members. In this way, the positioning data can be stored within the data storage device of each of the respective mounting members wherein this data can be transmitted to the control device 6 for utilization during the mounting operation.

MARKED UP VERSION OF THE ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method, apparatus and system are for operating an automatic component mounting unit for mounting an electrical component onto a substrate of an electrical assembly. The automatic component mounting unit utilizes a number of different mounting members, such as a head, feeding and sensor members, for mounting a variety of different components. Each of the mounting members includes a data storage device. The automatic component mounting unit also includes a control device for communicating with a data storage device of each of [said] the mounting members for processing an amount of process data that is specific to each of [said] the mounting members and that is generated prior to installation. As a result, the mounting members are readily configured for optimal use upon installation of [said] the mounting members.